

DAVID MIMS
GRAZING PERMIT
RENEWAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
OR-05-025-029

Bureau of Land Management
Burns District Office
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January 6, 2005

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION: PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

Grazing permittees who graze their livestock on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management shall have grazing permits issued to them under the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4130.2(a)). Grazing permits shall be issued for a term of 10 years unless there is some reason which requires a term of less than 10 years under the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4130.2(d)). In this case, the David Mims' grazing permit will be issued for a period of 10 years.

The Three Rivers Resource Management Plan (RMP) of 1992, identified land that was available for livestock grazing. The land in the Alder Creek Allotment (#5536), for which David Mims has a grazing permit, meets the criteria set forth in the Three Rivers RMP under GM 1.4, Page 2-37 (refer to attached Maps A and B). This action is also in conformance with applicable Tribal, State, and County laws, regulations, and Land Use Plans. (This analysis is tiered to the Three Rivers RMP and incorporates by reference, the information and analysis contained within the RMP.)

There are currently sage-grouse and/or its habitat present in the allotment under this term grazing permit. The current grazing system would not be in conflict with the needs for sage-grouse.

The Alder Creek Allotment is not within a Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA), however, the last inventory did identify horses in the allotment from the Stinkingwater HMA.

An analysis of the grazing systems used on the Alder Creek Allotment (#5536) for compliance with the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management was completed on April 17, 2002. The analysis showed that the allotment was meeting the standards and guidelines under current management practices.

CHAPTER II: ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is to issue the current permittee (David Mims), a 10-year term livestock grazing permit with the same terms and conditions as the expiring permit. This would continue the existing grazing management and would be the same as a no action alternative. Therefore, both will be analyzed under the proposed action. There has been monitoring of the effects of the current livestock grazing system in place within the allotment for a number of years. These study sites have been read periodically for more than 20 years. Monitoring data collected was last formally analyzed in 2002. The data analyzed indicates that allotment objectives are currently being met.

B. No Grazing Alternative

The proposed action would continue current terms and conditions. Monitoring has shown that allotment resource objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health are being met. Therefore, while a "No Grazing Alternative" has been considered, for the above reasons this alternative will not be addressed further in this document.

CHAPTER III: DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The following critical elements of the human environment have been analyzed in the Three Rivers RMP/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), are not known to be present, or would not be known to be affected by the proposed action or alternative: Prime or Unique Farmlands, Floodplains, Hazardous Materials, Research Natural Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas, Air Quality, Water Quality, Cultural Heritage, American Indian Religious Concerns, Noxious Weeds, Paleontology, Special Status Fauna, and Special Status Flora.

The following critical elements have been recently established and were not addressed in the Three Rivers RMP/EIS:

Migratory Birds: Some migratory birds are known to use the project area for nesting, foraging, and resting as they pass through on their yearly migrations.

Environmental Justice: There are no economically disadvantaged or minority populations present within the project area who would be disproportionately affected by enactment of the proposed action.

The affected environment was discussed thoroughly in the Three Rivers RMP and Final EIS.

CHAPTER IV: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Proposed Action

1. Anticipated Impacts

Grazing use for David Mims would be authorized under a new 10-year term grazing permit. The level and timing of use by livestock in the allotment would not change from what was authorized at the time the Three Rivers RMP was adopted. Since the writing of the RMP/EIS, the following resources have been recognized and were not analyzed in the RMP/EIS:

- a. Migratory Birds: There would be no known effect on migratory birds by the issuing of this livestock grazing permit.

- b. Environmental Justice: There are no economically disadvantaged or minority populations which would be disproportionately affected by the issuance of a livestock grazing permit.

2. Cumulative Impacts

There are no known cumulative impacts, either positive or negative, that would occur if a grazing permit is issued.

CHAPTER V: PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

David Mims, Grazing Permittee

CHAPTER VI: PARTICIPATING STAFF

Bill Andersen, District Rangeland Management Specialist
Lindsay Aschim, Fisheries Biologist
Jim Buchanan, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
Gary Foulkes, District Planning/Environmental Coordinator
Terri Geisler, Geologist
Doug Linn, Botanist
Fred McDonald, Natural Resource Specialist-Recreation
Nick Miller, Wildlife Biologist
Lisa Norfolk, Range Management Specialist, Lead Preparer
Lesley Richman, Weed Specialist
Joan Suther, Three Rivers Resource Area Field Manager
Scott Thomas, Archaeologist